

wherein said phenolic resin is different from said epoxy resin;
charging the raw material into a predetermined mold;
heat press forming the raw material charged into the mold at a temperature which is equal or less than a temperature at which the epoxy resin and the phenolic resin are carbonized; and
grinding a surface of the separator which is brought into contact with an adjacent member to be eliminated when the separator is incorporated into a fuel cell.

13. (Once amended) A method of manufacturing a separator for a fuel cell comprising:
preparing a raw material by mixing a carbon and a resin;
charging the raw material into a predetermined mold;
heat press forming the raw material charged into the mold at a temperature which is equal or less than a temperature at which the epoxy resin and the phenolic resin are carbonized; and
grinding a surface of the separator which is brought into contact with an adjacent member to be eliminated when the separator is incorporated into a fuel cell.

Please cancel claim 12, without prejudice to the subject matter contained therein.

Please add the following new claims 14-17:

14. (New) A separator for a fuel cell prepared by a process comprising the steps of:
preparing a raw material by mixing a carbon, an epoxy resin and a phenolic resin,
wherein said phenolic resin is different from said epoxy resin, and further wherein a ratio of an amount of an epoxy group of said epoxy resin to an amount of a hydroxyl group of said phenolic resin in the raw material is adjusted to a value ranging from 0.8 to 1.2 such that generation of a reaction byproduct gas is minimized;
charging the raw material into a predetermined mold at a temperature which is equal or less than a temperature at which the epoxy resin and the phenolic resin are carbonized; and
heat press forming the raw material charged into the mold.

15. (New) A separator for a fuel cell prepared by a process comprising the steps of:
preparing a raw material by mixing a carbon, an epoxy resin and a phenolic resin,
wherein said phenolic resin is different from said epoxy resin;

charging the raw material into a predetermined mold; and
heat press forming the raw material charged into the mold,
wherein the step of preparing the raw material includes the substeps of:

forming the raw material into a slurry; and
preparing a powder having an average particle size ranging from 50 to 150 μm and
a particle size distribution ranging from 50 to 300 μm by spraying and drying the slurry
for granulation.

16. (New) A separator for a fuel cell prepared by a process comprising the steps of:
preparing a raw material by mixing a carbon, an epoxy resin and a phenolic resin,
wherein said phenolic resin is different from said epoxy resin;
charging the raw material into a predetermined mold;
heat press forming the raw material charged into the mold at a temperature which is equal
or less than a temperature at which the epoxy resin and the phenolic resin are carbonized; and
grinding a surface of the separator which is brought into contact with an adjacent member
to be eliminated when the separator is incorporated into a fuel cell.

17. (New) A separator for a fuel cell prepared by a process comprising the steps of:
preparing a raw material by mixing a carbon and a resin;
charging the raw material into a predetermined mold;
heat press forming the raw material charged into the mold at a temperature which is equal
or less than a temperature at which the epoxy resin and the phenolic resin are carbonized; and
grinding a surface of the separator which is brought into contact with an adjacent member
to be eliminated when the separator is incorporated into a fuel cell.

REMARKS

Claim 1 and 3-13 were pending in the above-referenced Application. Claims 1, 3, 5-8
and 11-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent
No. 4,643,956 to Sandelli, *et al.* ("Sandelli") in view of Japanese Patent Publication
JP 59042781, and as unpatentable over Sandelli in view of Japanese Patent Publication JP 08-
151461. Claim 10 also stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as unpatentable over Sandelli